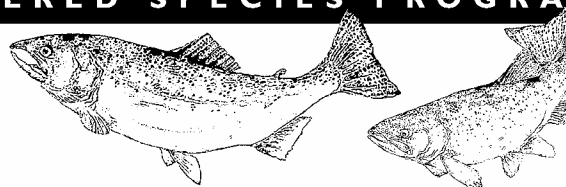


newsletter

Tel: (360)397-2022 • www.saveoursalmon.com*July 2003***Bush adviser meets with Fish First reps**

On his recent trip to the Northwest, James Connaughton, President Bush's top environmental adviser, took a tour of several habitat restoration projects with Fish First volunteers. Most of the projects were on a stretch of Cedar Creek that flows through Jim Malinowski's property in Amboy. They included fish-friendly culverts, the placement of large woody debris, and the creation of fish-friendly habitat through the construction of ponds, side channels, riffles, and pools. Connaughton said he wanted to see examples of projects resulting from a federal investment of nearly \$8.5 million in fish recovery on the lower Columbia River since 1999. He was interested in seeing if dollars spent on in-stream work are more effective than dollars spent on hydropower and hatcheries. Fish First representatives told Connaughton that federal fish agencies are slow to grant permits.

Coastal coho delisted?

The Bush administration is financing a scientific review of whether the Oregon coastal coho, listed as threatened in 1998 and showing pronounced returns in the past two years, have recovered sufficiently. Depending on the outcome of the review, the federal government could begin delisting the fish and transfer responsibility for managing the species to the state, providing a possible model for threatened and endangered species in other states. The administration wants to move away from top-down protections directed by the federal government and toward more autonomy for states.

A great return on the investment...

Perhaps all that money that's gone into fish restoration is paying off. Or maybe it's the great ocean conditions—hard to tell. In any case, fish returns are good again this year. As of mid-June, more than 192,000 returning adult spring chinook salmon passed Bonneville Dam, headed upriver to spawn. This is the fourth-highest count since record-keeping began in 1938.

...But—experts pessimistic about the fate of salmon

At the recent World Summit on Salmon in Vancouver, B.C., scientists stated that salmon recovery is hampered by such fundamental factors as rapidly growing population, increasing water demand, and people's failure to limit consumption. The population of the Northwest is expected to grow from 15 million today to more than 50 million during this century, leading to increasing competition for water and habitat. As society works to make the global economy more efficient, wild salmon will get left behind, scientists said. The bulk of salmon in the future are likely to come from hatcheries.

Dredging up old spoils

Washington and Oregon regulators have approved new channel deepening plans for the Columbia River. They believe the \$134 million project is important to the region's economy because it will allow larger ships to visit area ports. Several conservation groups contend the economic benefits are exaggerated and that the main impact will be environmental degradation that threatens listed fish species, and economic losses for people whose livelihood depends on the fishing and related industries. The project still requires more federal funding before it can begin.

ESA Program update – July 2003

This spring, Clark County ESA Program staff completed a subjective analysis of the county's environmental regulations to see how they comply with section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. The results show that while Clark County is doing a pretty good job of protecting listed fish when permitting development projects, other areas could be improved—for example, promoting greater use of native vegetation in riparian areas.

The extensive report has been published in a grid format that uses links to provide quick comparisons of the regulations with various environmental considerations. The report will be compared to a technical analysis being completed by a scientific consultant to corroborate the conclusions. Both analyses will be submitted to NOAA Fisheries to support our request for 4(d) compliance certification. For a CD of the report, contact Joni McAnally at 397-2022 ext. 3 or joni.mcanally@clark.wa.gov.

The ESA Program is actively involved with the Clark County Road Department to ensure their maintenance program is ESA-compliant. Together, we are working with a consortium of Puget Sound area road departments to be recognized by NOAA Fisheries for our fish-friendly efforts.

At the direction of the county commissioners, program staff has also been working with a consultant to develop a watershed template that identifies key environmental processes within each watershed. We want to be able to anticipate effects of human activities upon these processes and then propose mitigation strategies that ensure the processes retain their ability to recover.

The program continues to contribute to the development of a region-wide recovery plan that will address all of the limiting factors for fish (see page 4). Finally, the program recognized the salmon recovery efforts of several local citizens and groups during the annual Sammy Awards event in May (see below).

Sammy Award winners for 2003

At the May 16 Sammy Awards ceremony at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver, nine Sammy Awards were presented to the following individuals:

DEAN SWANSON

When a recent study showed that threatened chum salmon still spawn in sections of the East Fork of the Lewis River, Dean Swanson encouraged Fish First to construct a chum channel on his 200-acre riverfront property. A month after the channel was completed, spawning chum salmon were seen. Now Dean is looking into building another channel on his property.

KRISTEN WALLWAY and JIM COMRADA

Kristen Wallway and Jim Comrada organized a restoration project on Burnt Bridge Creek that involves replanting the north side of the creek, removing non-native vegetation, educating the public, and building a walking trail. Jim developed plans for planting and Kristen put together monthly volunteer work parties to plant or maintain vegetation.

GRETCHEN STARKE

For more than 20 years, Gretchen Starke has lobbied tirelessly and consistently for clean water issues and the protection of salmon habitat. She has been very involved in the county's Growth Management Act process, testifying in numerous hearings for critical areas habitat, forest practices, and shorelines protection.

GARY WADE

Gary Wade's Limiting Factors Analysis is something of a fish recovery how-to manual that is used by just about every fish restoration group in Clark County. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board relies heavily on the Limiting Factors Analysis when it reviews project requests. Gary is also an active volunteer on salmon issues.

JACK MATTSON

Jack Mattson worked with Clark Public Utilities to restore the riparian area along the section of Morgan Creek that flows through his property. Jack voluntarily ensured that more than two-thirds of his property—eleven acres total—will be permanently set aside as salmon and wildlife habitat.

RICK HADDOCK

Rick Haddock is a catalyst and advocate for natural resource stewardship within Clark County's real estate and development industries. He actively seeks opportunities to encourage clients to restore habitat on their properties. Rick is also an active member of the county's ESA Advisory Committee.

LEWIS AND CLARK RESTORATION GROUP

A group of 12 students at Lewis and Clark Alternative High School worked to restore riparian habitat along a section of Cougar Creek. The students conceived of the project after previously monitoring water quality in the creek. The project focus is replacing invasive blackberry vines with native trees and shrubs.

DON AND MARIE KULLA

Don and Marie Kulla recently chose to permanently sacrifice six acres of productive grazing land as part of a 10-acre habitat restoration project they undertook in partnership with Clark Public Utilities and a crew of Americorps workers. The Kullas have helped to preserve prime floodplain and riparian habitat in the heart of a rapidly urbanizing area.

ANN SMITH

Once a month, Ann Smith's 5th grade challenge class walks from Roosevelt Elementary School down to Burnt Bridge Creek to work in small groups and perform water quality tests, observe nature, write poetry, draw pictures, clear the area of litter, record data, and draw conclusions that they ultimately present to the annual Watershed Congress.

Certificates of Merit

Renee Fern

For her ongoing commitment to the *Salmon in the Classroom* program, including the use of an enthusiastic core of parent, community, and student volunteers.

George Bryant

For implementing an Integrated Pest Management Policy for the Vancouver School District to reduce pesticide use and improve the environment for people and fish.

Remy Johnson

For dedicating much of his usable land to salmon and wildlife habitat through an extensive streamside restoration project.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's regional plans

The LCFRB is coordinating the development of a comprehensive plan to return the region's salmon and steelhead to healthy, harvestable levels. The board consists of representatives of local governments, the legislature, the Cowlitz Tribe, hydro operators, the environmental community, and the public. The plan covers the Washington portion of the Lower Columbia region from the mouth of the Columbia River to the White Salmon River and as far north as the Cowlitz River basin. Since 1988 the board has secured \$11 million for 72 fish habitat restoration projects. The recovery plan will bring the board's habitat efforts together with recovery actions by federal, state, tribal, and local governments to create a coordinated regional recovery program. The plan will be submitted to federal agencies for approval in summer of 2004.

The LCFRB is seeking public comments on its draft technical document that looks at the status of the listed species and the natural forces and human activities that affect their health and viability. This document will be the basis for constructing and evaluating various recovery options. To broaden public participation in the planning process, the LCFRB will hold six public workshops across the region in August. Listed below, these workshops begin with an open house from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by a formal discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 360-425-1555.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
Toledo	8/5	Toledo High School Cafeteria
Longview	8/6	Lower Columbia College Conference Room B & C
Cathlamet	8/7	River Street Building
Stevenson	8/18	Rock Creek Community Center Auditorium
Battle Ground	8/19	Fire Station 12 Clark Co. Fairgrounds
Vancouver	8/20	Water Resource Education Center

